

LETTER

FROM

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL,

TRANSMITTING

Report from Auditor of the Treasury for the Post Office Department, touching deficiency appropriation for the "star" mail-service.

DECEMBER 15, 1879.—Referred to Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
Washington, D. C., December 12, 1879.

SIR: I have the honor to invite the attention of the Senate to the inclosed communication from the Auditor of the Treasury for the Post Office Department, and, in accordance with the recommendations therein contained, to request that the following deficiency appropriations be made, viz:

1. For "star" transportation, deficiency 1878-'79, actual and estimated..	\$199, 094 05
2. For letter-carriers, deficiency 1878-'79.....	1, 706 61
3. For twine, deficiency 1878-'79.....	375 89
4. For letter balances, deficiency 1878-'79.....	1 25
5. For mail-route messengers, deficiency 1878-'79.....	241 32
6. For official and dead letter envelopes, 1878-'79.....	4, 792 80

Making a total deficiency of 206,211 92

The exigencies of the service requiring extension of old, and the creating of new, routes, resulting from the establishment of new post-offices, have rendered the amount appropriated for "star" service for the fiscal year 1878-'79 insufficient to meet the payments therefor.

The deficiency in the item for official and dead-letter envelopes was caused by the fact that, on the 1st of May last, the official stamped envelopes in use at the large post-offices were discontinued and their place supplied by the "penalty" envelopes, which were paid for out of the appropriation for post-office envelopes, resulting in a decrease in the expenditures from the appropriation for the former and an increase in the expenditures from the appropriation for the latter.

As stated by the Auditor, no additional appropriation from the Treasury is required, there being a considerable balance of the general deficiency appropriation for 1878-'79 yet unexpended, which can be applied to the liquidation of the above accounts.

I, therefore, respectfully request that an appropriation be made at an early date for the sum of \$206,211.92 out of any money remaining in the

Treasury to the credit of the Post Office Department for the fiscal year 1878-79, and that it be made available immediately.

Very respectfully,

D. M. KEY,
Postmaster-General.

Hon. WILLIAM A. WHEELER,
President of the Senate.

OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR OF THE TREASURY
FOR THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
Washington, December 10, 1879.

SIR: That you may be fully advised of the condition of the accounts with the appropriations for the service of the Post Office Department for the fiscal year 1879, in which deficiencies exist, I have the honor to submit the following exhibit of deficiencies to be provided for:

STAR TRANSPORTATION, 1879.

Deficiency, September 30, 1879, as per Table No. 7, with my annual report.	\$146,572 28
Amount paid after September 30.....	7,764 03
Balance due contractors not paid	19,257 74
Total ascertained deficiency.....	173,594 05
Estimated amount to complete the adjustment of accounts not audited..	25,500 00
Total for star transportation	199,094 05
Letter-carriers	1,706 61
Twine	375 89
Letter balances	1 25
Compensation of mail-route messengers	241 32
Official and dead letter envelopes.....	4,792 80

While the audited balances due mail-contractors on star-routés (\$19,257.74) will be reported to the Secretary of the Treasury, under the act of June 14, 1878, the relation these creditors hold to the department entitles them to your special consideration.

Their accounts are practically current, their service being continuous. Most of them are men of small means invested in the stock and material necessary to the performance of the service contracted for.

In justice to these creditors I have therefore to recommend that the gross amount of the deficiency in the appropriation for star transportation be asked of Congress, and early action thereon requested.

As a large balance of the general deficiency appropriation for 1879 remains unexpended, these deficiencies call for no additional appropriation from the Treasury.

Very respectfully,

J. M. MCGREW,
Auditor.

Hon. D. M. KEY,
Postmaster-General.